

40299 and 40300. HIBISCUS SABDARIFFA L. Malvaceæ. Roselle.

From Lamac, Bataan, Philippine Islands. Presented by Mr. P. J. Wester, horticulturist, Lamac Experiment Station, through Mr. Paul Popenoe. Received March 25, 1915.

40299. "*Archer* roselle. Plant robust, frequently exceeding 1.60 meters in height, branching freely, all parts of the plant being greenish or whitish; stems nearly smooth; leaf lobes rather narrow; flowers smaller than those in the red types; 'eye' yellowish; pollen pale yellow; stigma green; full-grown calyx greenish white, sparsely covered with short, stiff bristles; average length of calyx 45 mm., width 26 mm., including epicalyx 32 mm.

"The *Archer* is very prolific, and the fruit is somewhat less acid than that of the red types, and the products made from it are whitish or amber colored. In the West Indies a wine is made from this variety that is said to resemble champagne in taste and appearance.

"Seed of the above-described variety was received from Mr. A. S. Archer, Antigua, British West Indies, by the writer early in 1913, and it was tested in the Lamac Experiment Station the same year. It has been named in honor of Mr. Archer, with whom the writer has had the privilege of being in correspondence for many years, and who has greatly assisted the Bureau of Agriculture in the introduction of many useful and decorative tropical American plants.

"The green type of roselle, to which the *Archer* belongs, was described as *Hibiscus digitatus* by Cavanilles in 1790, but it is now considered to be a form of *H. sabdariffa* L." (*Wester, The Philippine Agricultural Review*, vol. 7, p. 267-268, June, 1914.)

40300. "*Victor* roselle. This variety is distinguished by having the unifoliate leaves of the young plant change early into leaves deeply 5-lobed, these leaf characters remaining until the flowering period, when the leaves become 3-parted or again unifoliate. The stems and calyces are reddish. The pollen is a golden brown. The calyces average about 45 to 50 mm. in length and 28 mm. in equatorial diameter, tapering toward the apex; the calyx lobes are frequently convolute, and the fleshy spines subtending the calyx lobes are longer and more slender than in the *Rico*, and are curved upward. The *Victor* is more upright in habit than the *Rico* and somewhat earlier in fruiting, due probably to its having been cultivated in Florida for several years." (*Wester, The Philippine Agricultural Review*, vol. 5, p. 126, Mar., 1912.)

40301. ACROCOMIA CRISPA (H. B. K.) C. F. Baker. Phœnicaceæ. Palm.

From Cuba. Presented by Mr. C. T. Simpson, Little River, Fla. Received March 25, 1915.

"A most striking and beautiful palm, growing in a variety of soils and situations throughout the greater part of Cuba. The stem is seldom more than 8 inches in diameter at the base, but it rapidly expands to 2 feet or more, carrying its size up almost to the handsome, somewhat spiny leaves. In poor soil it seldom attains a height of over 20 feet, but in rich valleys it grows up to 60 feet. The very hard seeds had better be carefully cracked." (*Simpson.*)